

The Commission has an opportunity to provide meaningful HF operating privileges for entry-level radio amateurs, which privileges should include CW, phone and digital modes on a variety of HF frequencies to permit beginners to enjoy day/night and year-round communication. These privileges need not coincide with General Class operating privileges, however. Distinctions between entry-level and General Class privileges should be retained. The entry-level license for HF needs a name of its own (Novice? Foundation? Beginner?) IF the Commission is of a mind to make it meaningful. The "Technician" designation encompasses VHF/UHF operating quite nicely, but should not be carried over into HF. If the Commission is NOT of a mind to craft a meaningful entry-level license, then it should make the General Class license the default entry-level HF license in order to avoid the problems the current licensing structure presents to new amateurs who wish to operate on the HF bands. (See RM-10354)